



**MINUTES**  
**COUNTER-TERRORISM SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (FICEMS)**

<b>DATE &amp; TIME:</b>	September 4, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
<b>LOCATION:</b>	National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Building S, Room 113 16825 South Seton Avenue Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
<b>MEMBER AGENCY REPRESENTATION:</b>	<b>Department of Homeland Security</b> Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Mr. Gordon Sachs Subcommittee Chairperson United States Fire Administration (USFA)  Mr. John Brasko United States Fire Administration  Mr. Steven Caster FEMA
	<b>Department of Agriculture</b> No Representation
	<b>Federal Communications Commission</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Defense (DOD)</b> No Representation
	<b>General Services Administration (GSA)</b> No Representation

	<b>Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Interior</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Transportation (DOT)</b> Mr. Dave Bryson National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
	<b>Department of Veteran Affairs</b> No Representation
	<b>Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Labor</b> No Representation
<b>OTHER FEDERAL ATTENDEES:</b>	<b>Department of Commerce (DOC)</b> Ms. Lu Lathan NTIS/AV Service  Mr. Wayne Strickland NTIS/AV Service
	<b>Department of Justice (DOJ)</b> No Representation
<b>OTHER ATTENDEES PRIVATE SECTOR:</b>	<b>American Ambulance Association (AAA)</b> No Representation
	<b>American Medical Response</b> No Representation
	<b>American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)</b> Mr. Pete Chambers
	<b>Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)</b> Captain Christine Woodard
	<b>Little Rock, AR, Metropolitan Emergency Medical Systems (MEMS)</b> Mr. Jon Swanson

		<b>National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)</b> No Representation
		<b>VFIS</b> Mr. Richard Patrick

## **I. WELCOME**

Counter-terrorism Subcommittee Chairperson Mr. Gordon Sachs called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone. The meeting began late due to a delay in the FICEMS main meeting.

## **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Sachs requested that we go around the room for introductions.

## **III. ROUNDTABLE OF ATTENDEES' INVOLVEMENT IN COUNTER-TERRORISM PROJECTS**

**ASTM:** Mr. Pete Chambers

ASTM declined the offer to work in the terrorist arena but probably will get involved with product standards more on the technical side/performance standards, etc.

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments:** Captain Christine Woodard

The Council has not met since the last FICEMS meeting, but will meet next week. Captain Woodard will report further at the December meeting with regard to where they are on equipment and programs, etc.

**Little Rock, AR, Metropolitan EMS: Mr. Jon Swanson**

Mr. Swanson reported that his agency takes an "all hazards" approach. They separate a biological event from a chemical event and are looking at the likelihood of a lot of transporting of patients. Mr. Swanson's group is identifying appropriate standards for personal protective equipment, and struggling with affordable equipment and clear procedures as to levels of decontaminate and communication. They work to notify hospitals quickly of the emergency event and set up a decontamination station at the emergency entrance, while making modifications based on what they have and how they would respond to an emergency event "tonight". In addition, Mr. Swanson commented that small providers need guidance on how to

decontaminate a unit when they find out that the patient they just helped was a SARS case, for example.

**FEMA (Montgomery County, MD facility):** Mr. Steven Caster

Mr. Caster explained that he is new to the group and interested in gathering information. He is hoping to have Montgomery County officials in the meeting in the future.

**NHTSA:** Mr. David Bryson

Mr. Bryson reported that NAEMSP and other groups have almost finalized the Medical Response to Terrorism Course with information regarding pre-hospital and hospital medicine. They are looking to include all the players in the WMD arena to help prepare for potential mass casualties in a terrorist attack on the United States.

**NTIS:** Ms. Lu Latham and Mr. Wayne Strickland

Ms. Latham and Mr. Strickland stated that they are trying to get together first responder information for distribution on their website.

**VFIS:** Mr. Richard Patrick

Mr. Patrick reported with regard to funding for counter-terrorism efforts, other than the 200 big cities, most cities have not received a penny to assist with CT efforts. The culture in the emergency services field needs to change too – many don't think that any terrorism event would ever occur in their area. The money isn't there and the culture of the emergency services arena is that people don't think that it could happen to them.

**USFA:** Mr. Gordon Sachs

Mr. Sachs pointed out that DHS's Office for Domestic Preparedness is the only Federal Agency allowed to deal with CT issues. While USFA has some CT-related programs, they focus on all hazards. The premise is that fire departments/EMS don't get dispatched to "terrorism incidents", they respond to "10 people down" type incidents or hazardous materials incidents.

Mr. Sachs also reported that a self study web based course is coming on line in the next few months. There is also an EMS operations class in development and a mass decontamination course for small departments, outlining how to deal with decontamination of many people up to a few thousand. The Emergency Response to Terrorism: Awareness course will be handed off to the states. Mr. Sachs mentioned that the Emergency Response to Terrorism Job Aid is coming out in a PDA and Pocket PC format in a few weeks. Also coming out is a report with recommendations from commanders from those counties that dealt with 9/11 events. An incident management team training program is in development, and USFA is getting ready to kick off a credentialing project for multi-jurisdictional incidents which will help identify legitimate responders and their training levels.

#### **IV. ESTABLISH OBJECTIVES FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Sachs suggested that in the interest of time, the group think about these for the next meeting.

#### **V. ACTION ITEM REVIEW**

No action items were reported at this meeting.

#### **VI. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Mr. Sachs would like the group to pass along agenda items to him for the next meeting. The next meeting will be on December 4, 2003, 1:00 p.m., at NETC, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sachs adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m. and encouraged attendees to attend the presentation to follow.